

their children to help settle the American wilderness and plant the Gospel here. The name is not the same as Byles or Bayley or Billy. It was spelled *Biley* or *Byley*. His mother Mary was born about 1612, and married to his father in 1643, when she was about 30 years old. She had five children, and died about 1651, probably at the birth of her son Thomas. Biley was of good mind, ability and character. He was chosen to many offices and was Selectman in 1687, 90, 94, 95, 97, and 98, being often associated with his brother Theophilus in that office. He married October 25, 1682, Elizabeth, daughter of the first Moses Gilman, Esq., one of the leading men of the town and Province; but they never had any children. She survived her husband and died in 1728.

Biley Dudley, Esq., gave most of his estate to his wife, and his name-sake Byley Lyford, grandson of his half sister Rebecca Dudley and her husband Francis Lyford. There was a child named for him, or, at least, that afterwards bore the name of "Byley Dudley," viz., the son of his nephew, Nicholas Dudley⁴. That Byley Dudley was then three years old. Perhaps the widow of Byley³, Esq., at a later day remembered the young namesake in her will. It was a great fashion to give bequests to namesakes, and had been for hundreds of years. It did not seem to strike the good people of ancient times as wise or expedient to distribute their estates at their death equally among their heirs. But we now consider that heirs of equal degree of relationship to the testator, have equal claims upon his estate; and that he is unjust to those he slights or neglects without good cause. I cannot discern why the ancients should not have had the same idea of justice, unless they took Providence as their pattern and exemplar, or what they called Providence.

In the early Town Papers of Exeter, I find Byley Dudley's name on Captain Kinsley Hall's Pay Roll, 1696—of Prest men of Exeter who served His Majesty at Oyster River, 1695.

WILL OF BYLEY DUDLEY.

I, Biley Dudley, of Exeter, in the Province of New Hampshire in New England, being of sound mind and memory, but antient and infirm, and not knowing how soon God, in his Providence, may remove me hence, have constituted and made, and, by these presents, do constitute, make, ordain, and declare this to be my